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May Alford to Matilda Norman, 6 December [?]

May Alford

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1
Cay State Springs N.Y. Dec the 9 1857

My ever dear friend

I again sit down to the pleasant task of writing to you and for a little while shall almost imagine my self with you indeed it requires very little stretch of the imagination to carry me amongst you we are all well at this time we have not received a letter from any of the ladies since they left I begin to think they are all composed of miseries I know Caroline could write if Foster and cousin Sandy are taking on so they cannot I suppose they think they will be here soon it would be useless to write nothing of interest is going on up here now times are dull Christmas is almost here and there is not much excitement I have heard of only one party to be given that by Mr Estlin but as that is not interesting to neither you nor myself I conclude the least said about that the better the city girls are flourishing finely the two Miss Goldspes have been added to the number it is a very gloomy day to day and I cannot go to church this morn. I cannot think of much interesting I went to hear an new circuit rider preach last Sunday oh he preached such a fine sermon his sermons do me so much good I am so proud of our preacher I am so pleased with him from Mr Greenback he is going

So far as would it not be an addition to our exertions to
have him with Mr ~~Sherrington~~ Sherrington I will ever be
partial to Mr Greenback he was to preach to day but the day
is so gloomy I suppose he will not I thank you and Mr ~~Stann~~
while she pleased with Mr Sherrington Mr Bridges is delighted with
him we have such good class meetings here is an although
our class leader says he has backslid but he is one of the kind
that will stick to the old ship as long as there is a shiver
plank he asked us all to pray for him and insisted prayer
will certainly reclaim him I fear that his fine daughter
is the cause taken to much of his thoughts if she is growing
fine he is not near so bad as when you was up here
and how will she come in two or three weeks you must
come up soon after coming Sandy waves and pray us all a
sweet Mr Bridges family are all well they were up last Sunday
Mr Gray has left us rather gone to we feel very lonesome you
may expect a pinch for what you said about my mother
in your letter it is wise in you to hint such impertinence
so far of never mind I hope I will not be so far from you
always Polly is down there now I feel lonesome because she is so
far & I miss her her wisdom I wish I could share it tell her
not to stay so long May will come some time next year
with its beautiful flowers and a flower more beautiful than
any other to her fresh and blooming from the city of merrilland

will that not be joy to her who is such a lover of flowers
ask her to keep some of the seeds or write for me to trans-plant
tell her to hasten home there will be joy in May tell your mother
that I will come down and stay with her next year and
take long rides with her as Mr Gallop will be back in
that time I am going to pay you all a long visit next year
and I will expect you to do the same tell your mother I will come
down and stay with her and we will be all made together
Polly will then be turning some beautiful flowers around
the white house I can't think of any thing interesting
this morning so I will not be scribbling my thoughts on
paper when it will be so much greater pleasure to see them and
when I see you my love to your mother Mr Bowman and Polly
you may answer this soon you cannot imagine how ever I tell
you what a pleasure it is to receive a letter from you
you may consider the remainder of this page filled
with love to you I will write you a long letter still your
do not forget me in your prayers ever your friend
Mary Alford